

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 10045 311718Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 AF-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00
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R 311517Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3170
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10045

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, VT, TW,RW,CH
SUBJECT: VATICAN NAMES MSGR THOMAS WHITE NUNCIO TO RWANDA

1. VATICAN RADIO ANNOUNCED MAY 27 THAT POPE PAUL VI APPOINTED
MSGR. THOMAS WHITE AS APOSTOLIC FNCIO TO RWANDA.

2. MSGR, WHITE, FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF THE
APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE IN TAIPEI, AS THE NUNCIO IS NO LONGER RESIDENT
THERE BUT IN DACCA. SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE IMPENDING TRANSFER
OF MSGR.WHITE WAS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS REPLACE-
MENT IN TAIPEI, THTHERE HAS BEEN PRESS SPECULATION THAT HE MAY NOT BE
REPLACED. INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, FOR EXAMPLE, ON MAY 28,
CARRIED A BRIEF ITEM TO THE EFFECT THAT "OBSERVERS REAGARD THE DECISI
ON
AS THE LATEST GOODWILL MOVE BY THEPONTIFF TOWARD PEKING. THE VATICAN
HAS VAINLY TRIED SO FAR TO ESTABLISH A DIRECT CONTACT WITH PEKING BUT
RECENT SIGNS OF A LET-UP IN ANTI-RELIGIOUS PERSECUTIONS IN CHINA HAVE
RAISED HOPES". HIGH VATICAN OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT THE STORY IN
SO
FAR AS THE REPLACEMENT FOR MSGR. WHITE WAS APECULATIVE AND THAT THE H
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SEE INTENDS TO REPLACE HIM SOON WITH UROTHET CHARGE D'AFFAIRES.

3. AVAILABLE BIODATA ON NEW NUNCIO ARE AS FOLLOWS: MSGR.
WHITE WAS BORN IN DURROW, IRELAND, IN 1931, WAS ORDAINED PRIEST
IN 1956, AND ENTERED THE VATICAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN 1960.
HE HAS SERVED SUCCESSIVELY IN DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS IN KENYA,
GUATEMALA, COLOMBIA, SWITZERLAND, THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE

IN ROME AND IN TAIWAN.GARDNER

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